

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 9-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended, claim 8 is canceled, and claims 12-15 are added. No new matter is added.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2 and 8-11 are rejected as being unpatentable over JP 09-317452 (JP '452). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, "the support comprises at least two support elements..., and the two support elements neighboring in the axial direction of the mantle being disposed *out of phase with each other* in the peripheral direction of the mantle" (emphasis added).

JP '452 neither teaches nor suggests that neighboring support elements in the axial direction are "out of phase with each other" in the peripheral direction of the mantle. Fig. 3 of JP '452 shows that its minor diameter shells 43 (allegedly corresponding to the claimed support elements) are aligned *in-phase*, given that the axis of each minor diameter shell 43 does not change in the peripheral direction of the major diameter shell 41 (allegedly corresponding to the claimed mantle).

Therefore, because JP '452 does not disclose the claimed "support elements neighboring in the axial direction of the mantle being disposed *out of phase with each other* in the peripheral direction of the mantle" (emphasis added), withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Furthermore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 8-11 is respectfully requested because of their dependence on claim 1, as well as for additional features they recite.

II. Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-2 and 9-11 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness type double patenting over claims 1, 3-6 and 10 of co-pending Application No. 10/656,121 (co-pending Application). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, "the support comprises at least two support elements that are *in contact with and are bonded to an inner peripheral surface of the mantle*, the two support elements being disposed in the axial direction of the mantle." This feature was incorporated into claim 1 from canceled claim 8, which was not part of the double patenting rejection. Therefore, because claim 1 contains subject matter that is distinct from the co-pending application, withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

III. New Claims 12-15

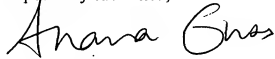
New claim 12 recites an "out of phase" feature similar to that of claim 1. As discussed above, JP '452 does not disclose the claimed "support elements neighboring in the axial direction of the mantle being disposed *out of phase with each other* in the peripheral direction of the mantle" (emphasis added). Thus, for at least this reason claim 12 would not have been anticipated or otherwise rendered obvious from JP '452. Furthermore, claims 13-15 would likewise not have been anticipated or otherwise rendered obvious from JP '452 at least based on their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 9-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: July 23, 2007

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